

**June 11, 2009 Minutes of
Bigfork Steering Committee/Bigfork Land Use Advisory Committee
bigforksteering.org**

Committee members present: John Bourquin, Shelley Gonzales, Gary Ridderhoff, Paul Guerrant, Sue Hanson, Pat Wagner, Craig Wagner, Jim Losee, Chuck Gough, Denise Lang, Steve Zabaro, George Darrow, Don Loranger, Bruce Solberg, Paul Mutascio, Carol Venable, Joe Brenneman.

Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order at 12: 05 pm.

Agenda: was adopted as amended to postpone the Bylaw review and move discussion of Commissioner's actions to the end of the meeting. (m/sc Hanson/Gonzales) – unanimous.

Minutes: of the May 14, 2009 meeting were approved as amended. (m/sc Gough/Guerrant)-unanimous.

Treasurer's report: \$1680.25

Committee Reports:

1. **North Lake County Planning:** The committee will meet at 9:15 a.m. at Saddlehorn Discovery Tower on June 5 & 19, 2009, and July 3 & 17, 2009.
2. **Stormwater Advisory Committee:** Sue Hanson reported Flathead County has been awarded Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funds in the amount of \$625,000 for construction of Phase 1 of the Bigfork stormwater project. Commissioner, Joe Brenneman, made the announcement on CBS TV channels Wednesday, June 10, 2009. The Bigfork Schools project has awarded a bid for construction this summer on the water retention/filtration system on school property. The school project will include connecting a drainage culvert from the drywell adjacent to the Janover property to the main drain down Grand Dr. The committee is also working with CFBB to coordinate on engineering for future sidewalks on the west end of Grand Dr. Advisory Committee members Paul Rana, Dave Christensen, Lamont Kinkade and Sue Hanson toured the Bigfork Wastewater Treatment Plant on June 3, 2009. Phase 1 of the plant upgrade has been completed. A new computer system program monitors every stage of the process and is encoded for Homeland Security. Of interest to the Bigfork Stormwater Advisory Committee (BSAC) was the increased flow into the sewer system of stormwater events. In winter months, average flow is 150,000 gallons per day. On January 9, 2009, during a snowmelt event, the flow increased to 326,000 gallons. In May, 2009, a large rain event increased flow to 317,000 gallons. Stormwater infiltrates un-pressurized sewer lines.

Community Reports:

1. **Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork:** Paul Mutascio, President of CFBB, reported he is working with the contractors for the Bigfork School project to work with scheduled summer events in order to avoid road disruption during those events. He discussed a letter from CFBB to the Flathead County Commissioners regarding concern of the future of the Bigfork Dock. The letter expresses need to keep the dock open and in good repair to ensure the public access to the bay. Mustacio shared another letter he wrote to the Flathead County Commissioners with regard to a Petition given to them at the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan hearing on April 29, 2009. This letter mentioned that the

- Community Foundation does not take a position on specific land use issues. (Both letters are in Secretary's notebook) Mutascio also reported that the Bigfork Enhancement Contribution is in the process of developing bylaws and clarifying income and disbursement procedures. The CFBB will retain the final decision on the use of funds to ensure any activity does not jeopardize their 501 3C non-profit status. Randy Snyder's firm is collecting funds in a trust account until details are finalized.
2. **Bigfork Chamber of Commerce:** Director, Bruce Solberg, announced the June Sundowner would be held tonight at Glacier Bank, 5:00 p.m. There will be a large 4th of July Parade. The Festival of the Arts, August 1-2, will feature 20 additional booths. Interest in the Festival is high with many excellent artists applying for space. On Labor Day, September 6, 2009, the community will host an Antique Car Show. The C of C plans to set up stanchions with tape to increase safety for children and others during the parade. They have asked that candy be handed out and not be thrown to the crowd in the interest of safety.
 3. **BLUAC:** Chairman, Shelley Gonzales, reported the Bigfork Children's Theatre received a unanimous vote to recommend approval of their Conditional Use Permit at the old Flathead Industries building. The committee also recommended approval for an amendment to the Mill Creek Estates PUD.

Old Business:

1. Chairman Wagner stated the need to raise funds for upcoming costs of liability insurance. He noted that for a donation of \$50, the BSC could sell bottled water during the Antique Car Show over Labor Day. Don Loranger raised the question of returning the BSC to a state of dormancy since the BNP has been finally approved. He suggested that CFBB, being the oldest community action organization, was the appropriate entity to pursue community interests, other than land use planning. He was also concerned that the two committees not be duplicating efforts. Wagner suggested putting both issues on the agenda for the July 9, 2009 BSC Public Forum.
2. Sue Hanson reported on an email from Tom Lewis regarding designs for signage for the Bigfork area. He has been in contact with the CFBB and will give a presentation for his ideas at the next CFBB meeting.
3. On the issue of signs, Wagner reported that Grizzly Jacks has started using their electronic sign. Gonzales reported she has been in contact with Flathead County regarding the electronic sign and the continued use of the portable reader board. The county is in the process of a resolution for sign violation enforcement.

Public Comment:

1. Commissioner Brenneman noted that, in reference to the CFBB letter regarding the public dock, that the Commissioners were committee to maintaining the right of way for the dock. There is a 60' road easement (Lake Street) and noted the state law prohibits the county from abandoning road easements. He suggested the area be referred to as a public road right of way and not a park. Public right of way is a way of ensuring public access to public waterways. He reported the county has moved the stormwater culvert to the east beside the dock. If the community wishes improvements to the dock, the contact would be Jed Fisher, County Parks Director. Sue Hanson reminded the committee that

any improvements to the dock should not impede the flow of water. Commissioner Brenneman excused himself to go do some farming.

New Business:

1. Chairman Wagner reported that on June 2, 2009, the Board of Commissioners unanimously passed Resolution 2208 to approve the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan including recommended changes by the Flathead County Planning Board, with the exception of the recommended change on Page 42, section 5. Before passing the BNP, Commissioners Lauman and Dupont passed a motion to change the Future Land Use Map designation for three lots, including United Tool Rental and Touris Plumbing, on MT Hwy 83 from SAG-5 to **Light Industrial**. Commissioner Brenneman objected, stating the action bypasses the public process and expressed his dismay at a return to the “Good Old Boy” conduct of Commissioners. The Touris application for a zone change in this area to light industrial was recommended for denial by BLUAC on October 25, 2007, the recommendation of the majority of the Planning Board was denial, and Commissioners Brenneman and Hall (Lauman was absent) denied the application on February 14, 2008.

Words are lacking to fully express appreciation to all who have worked tirelessly, since 2004, to update the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan. Your efforts produced an excellent document. A very heartfelt THANK YOU!! to Shelley Gonzales, who chaired the committee, coordinated the efforts of the many and spent countless hours fine-tuning the BNP. A special THANK YOU to BJ Grieve, all the staff at the Planning Office and the GIS office for their expertise and help through this process.

Discussion ensued regarding the concern over legalities of the two Commissioner’s actions without going through the same public process the rest of the BNP was required to do. It was suggested individuals seek informal legal advice.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Pat Wagner, Secretary